

# OAKLAND REACH

*mini-case*

A peek at an effective community partnership

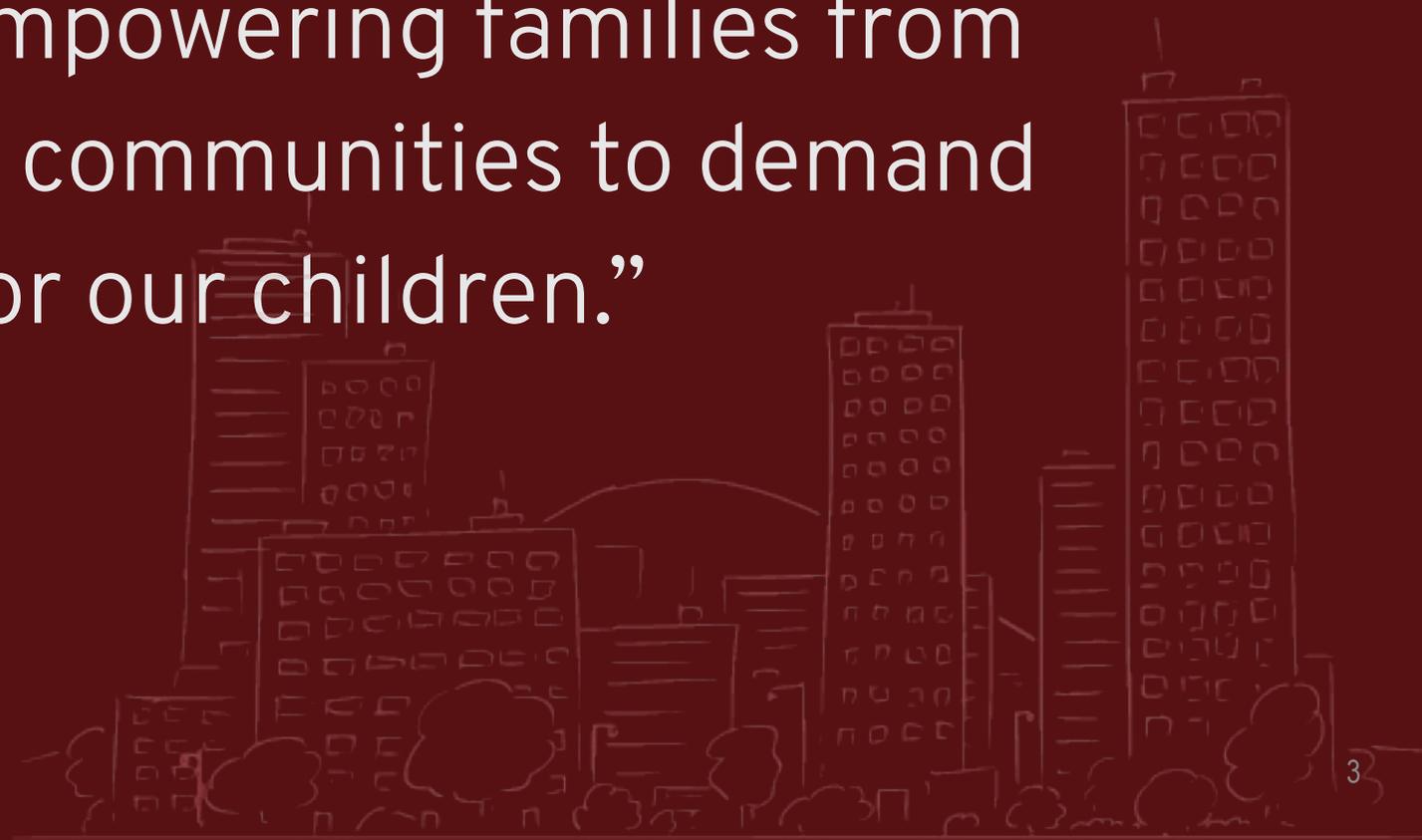


Explore the concrete ways Oakland REACH employed “Power Strategies” that address critical student needs now *and* lay a sustainable foundation for lasting improvement.

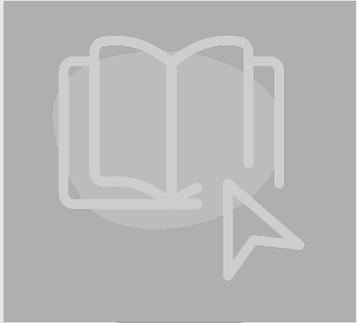
Learn more and see examples [here](#).



**Oakland REACH** is a “parent-run, parent-led group committed to empowering families from our most underserved communities to demand high-quality schools for our children.”



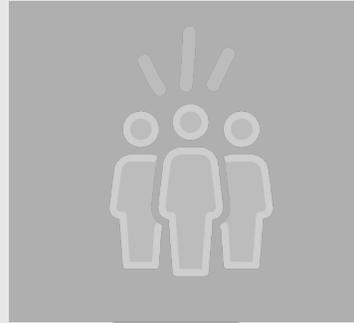
# AT OAKLAND REACH:



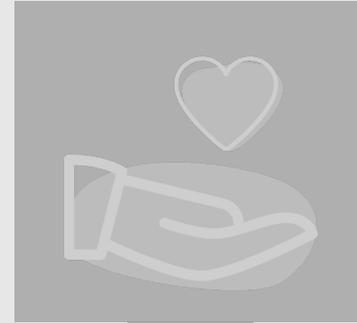
#1  
Empowering,  
Adaptable  
Instruction



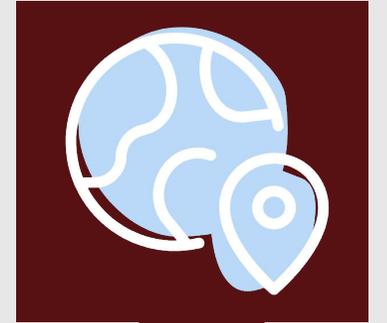
#2  
Time &  
Attention



#3  
The  
Teaching  
Job



#4  
Relationships  
& Social-  
Emotional  
Support



#5  
Family &  
Community  
Partnerships



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# WHAT IS OAKLAND REACH?

USUALLY, OAKLAND REACH FOCUSES ON:



## **FAMILY ADVOCACY**

The Family Advocacy Fellowship program grows parents knowledge and skills around how to be strong advocates for their children.



## **DIRECT OUTREACH**

The Outreach Team brings together families to attend School Board and community meetings.



## **ENROLLMENT SUPPORT**

Family advocates help parents and guardians navigate how to choose a school for their child and go through the enrollment process.

The organization is fully funded from philanthropy and individual donations.

## COVID NEEDS

In spring 2020, families wanted their children's remote learning experiences to be more challenging, enriching, and culturally relevant.

Oakland REACH coordinated their approaches and programs to meet emerging needs.



# WHAT THEY DID



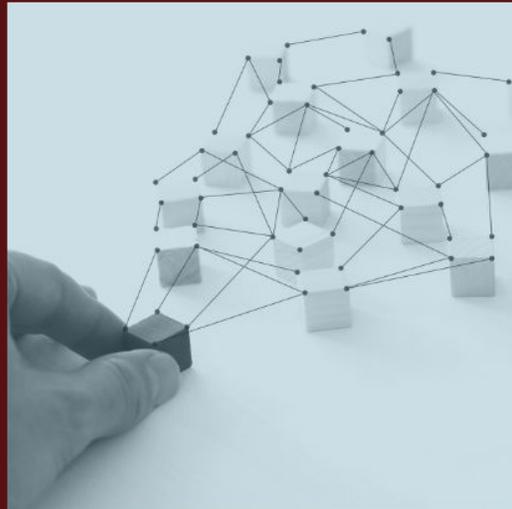
## CITYWIDE VIRTUAL HUB

During the summer, Oakland REACH hired teachers from Oakland Unified School District to lead literacy instruction. Full day **programming included classes and activities** for 200 students. K-2 students grew an average of two reading levels over the summer.



## FAMILY LIAISON ROLE

Oakland REACH created a family liaison role to work with families to make sure their children could **access their school's remote learning**. In fall 2020, they nearly doubled the number of Family Liaisons to 18 total.



## “DIRECT TO FAMILY” PROGRAM PARTNERS

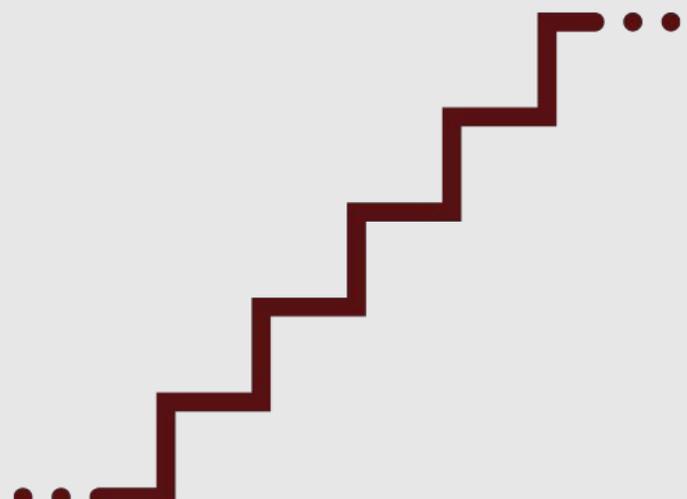
To make **high-quality instruction and social enrichment** possible, Oakland REACH began partnering with Reconstruction and the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley.

# WHAT MAKES OAKLAND REACH AN EXAMPLE OF A GREAT COMMUNITY PARTNER

- 1 Oakland REACH is designed to be **responsive to community needs**. This ongoing responsiveness helped them add direct supports for core academics and for enrichment when students needed it.
- 2 They coordinate **enrichment opportunities** and match students with activities and programs feel engaging and match their interests.
- 3 Family Liaisons at Oakland REACH **help families find ways to stay informed** about what their students are learning and avenues for speaking up to ensure schools are supporting their students' needs.



# BUILD TOWARD



## How would ERS like to see districts working with community organizations like this – and vice versa?

- **Growing Capacity**

At Oakland REACH, family advocates share their knowledge with families and communities, building community advocacy beyond the scope of just the organization's own growth.

*By authentically engaging families, districts can learn more about advocates' priorities for their children, their schools, and their communities.*

- **Aligning Programming**

Oakland REACH draws on full-day programs and after-school programs for students, as well as group fellowships and flexible support for families. These programs and supports are integrated into students' and families' lives, based on what is most needed and how it will be most accessible.

*To ensure out-of-school programming addresses students' and families' needs, districts can use what they learn from families about their needs, interests, and schedules to inform which types of partnership to build and to seek out partners that work at the times and places most accessible for families.*

- **Advancing Equity**

In addition to family-led advocacy at the school level, Oakland REACH pushes the state toward equity, from a different angle than a school district could.

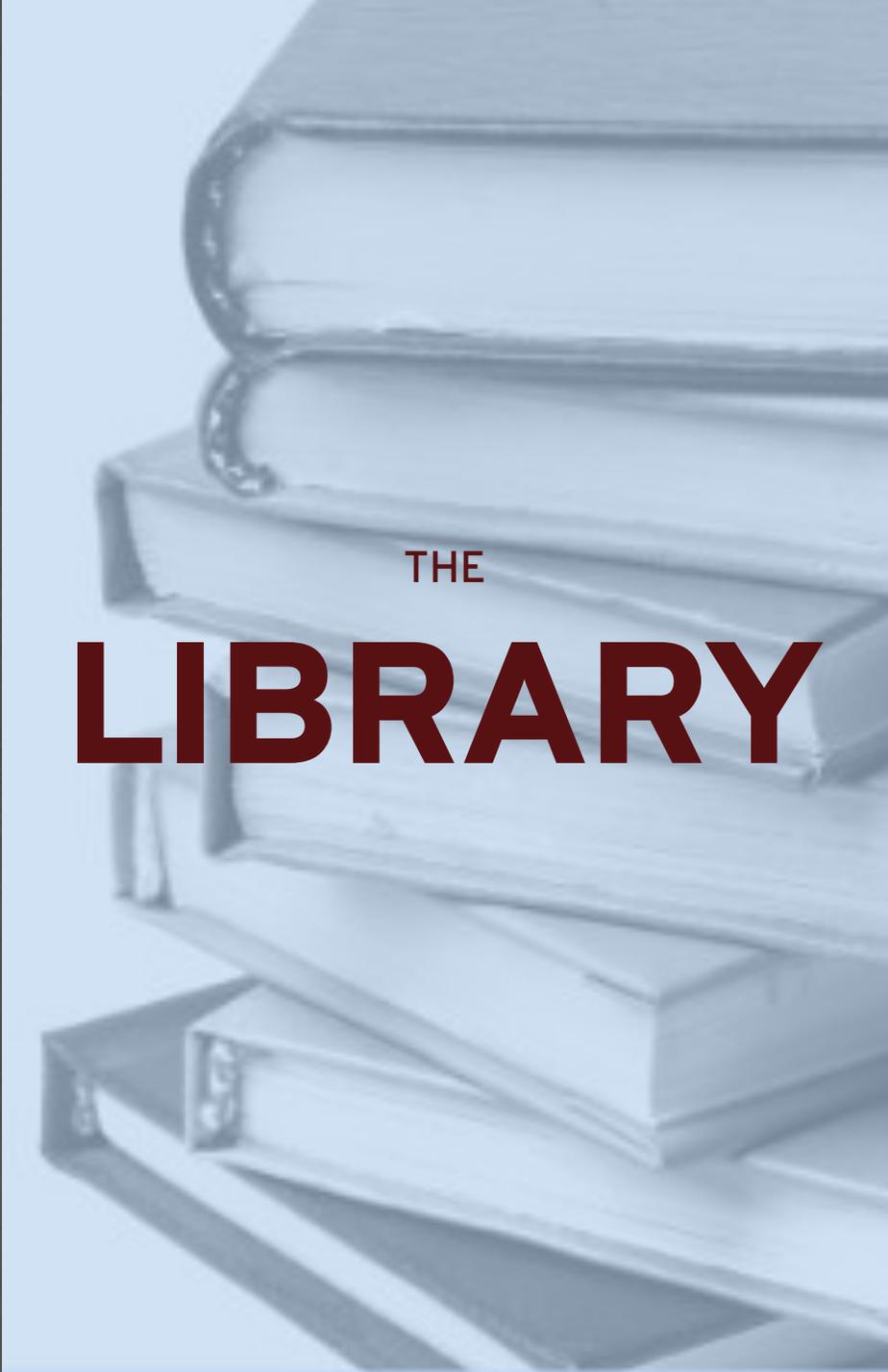
*To direct resources where they are needed most, districts can seek out community organizations with strengths and approaches that are complementary – either by building off of the district's current strengths and momentum, or by filling in gaps.*



Let's not strive for continuity of learning.  
Let's **commit to doing so much more to tackle gaps** and shape up the system – while establishing practices that are flexible and adaptable to each new phase of the school year ahead.

OAKLAND REACH

# APPENDIX



# THE LIBRARY

## ARTIFACTS

- [Oakland REACH website](#)
- [Reconstruction](#)
- [Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley](#)

## RELATED

- [Leveraging Community Partnerships for Integrated Student Support](#) *EdResearch for Recovery*
- [Building Systems of Integrated Student Support](#) *America's Promise Alliance*
- [Family and Community Engagement](#) *U.S. Department of Education*
- [Family Engagement](#) *Coalition for Community Schools*
- [Joining Together to Create a Bold Vision for Next Generation Family Engagement](#) *Carnegie*
- [Family-School-Community Partnerships 2.0](#) *NEA*